

**Delta Stewardship Council
EIR Field Hearings on the Delta Plan Draft EIR
Meeting Summary
January 25, 2012**

The Delta Stewardship Council held Field Hearings to collect public input on the draft Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Delta Plan. Hearings included a brief overview of the Delta Plan followed by public comments related to the draft EIR. All comments were transcribed by a court reporter. In addition, meetings were recorded, and audio was posted to the Delta Stewardship Council web site at deltacouncil.ca.gov. Following is a summary of attendance and comments received at those hearings.

**Wednesday, January 11
Valencia Park/Malcolm X Library, Multipurpose Room
5148 Market St., San Diego, CA 92114**

Attended by Council members Phil Isenberg, Felicia Marcus and Gloria Gray, and staff members Keith Coolidge and Chris Stevens.

Nine audience members signed in, and five provided questions and/or comments to the Council. Audience members included representatives from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Eastern Municipal Water District, San Diego County Water Authority, the Association of California Water Agencies and the City of San Diego Public Utilities District.

Audience comments outlined investments made by San Diego-area water providers to diversify their water supply and reduce dependence on water imported from Metropolitan Water District (and therefore the Delta), as well as water provider efforts to improve regional self-sufficiency. Comments included support for the Delta Vision Strategic Plan and Delta Reform Act of 2009, as well as the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). Comments also included concerns about the Fifth Staff Draft Delta Plan "regulating local and regional efforts toward self-sufficiency to achieve the coequal goals." Instead, some audience members suggested that the coequal goals would be achieved by restoring "water supplies that have been restricted under the Endangered Species Act through the removal of threats to the listed species and recovery of those species." Other comments mentioned concerns about the Draft Delta Plan's "emphasis on water flows through the Delta as a means of achieving ... ecosystem restoration" without adequately addressing other stressors and the EIR not fully exploring alternatives to the Delta Plan.

**Thursday, January 12
Pasadena Public Library, Central Location, Donald R. Wright Auditorium
285 East Walnut Street, Pasadena, CA 91101**

Attended by Council members Phil Isenberg, Felicia Marcus and Gloria Gray, and staff members Keith Coolidge and Chris Stevens.

Fourteen audience members signed in, and nine provided questions and/or comments to the Council. Audience members included representatives from the Southern California Water Committee, Environmental Water Caucus, Three Valleys Municipal Water District, City of Pasadena Water and Power, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, as well as local residents.

Audience comments included concerns that the Fifth Staff Draft Delta Plan "adds another layer of bureaucracy" by seeking to regulate improved self-sufficiency by water providers "in an attempt to second-guess their local water management efforts." Instead, audience members suggested the Delta Plan should coordinate voluntary efforts by water providers to improve self-sufficiency. Comments included concerns that the Delta Plan lacks a strategic approach for using limited public funds for levee improvements in the Delta and that the draft EIR does not adequately evaluate alternatives to the Delta Plan. Comments also discussed efforts by local water providers to reduce reliance on imported water supplies and included support for the BDCP.

Tuesday, January 17

Ceres Community Center, Large Assembly Room

2701 4th Street, Ceres, CA 95307

Attended by Council members Phil Isenberg, Randy Fiorini, Patrick Johnston and Don Nottoli, and staff member Keith Coolidge.

Fifteen audience members signed in, and four provided questions and/or comments. Audience members included representatives from State Senator Anthony Cannella's office, the Friant Water Authority, as well as local agri-business owners and residents.

Audience comments included support for the Delta Stewardship Council in their work toward creating a plan to achieve the coequal goals. Questions posed to the Council included how revising or deferring the proposed California Water Bond (Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2012) would affect the Delta Stewardship Council and Integrated Regional Water Management Planning; whether land identified for habitat restoration will be purchased or leased; and how stakeholders are so far reacting to the Fifth Staff Draft of the Delta Plan.

Wednesday, January 18

Clarksburg Middle School Auditorium

52870 Netherlands Rd., Clarksburg, CA 95612

Attended by Council members Phil Isenberg and Randy Fiorini, and staff members Joe Grindstaff and Keith Coolidge.

Forty-nine audience members signed in, and 13 provided questions and/or comments. Audience members included representatives from State Assemblymember Mariko Yamada's office, the Nevada City Sustainability Council, California Department of Water Resources, Yolo County, Regional Water Authority, Sacramento County Farm Bureau, Delta Chamber of Commerce, California Department of Fish and Game, North Delta CARES, Local Agencies of the North Delta (LAND), Snug Harbor Resorts, Porta Bella Vineyards, as well as local residents.

Audience comments included concerns that the Fifth Staff Draft Delta Plan lacks enough content and/or relies on unfinished reports from the BDCP, Delta Protection Commission and others for the public and the EIR to adequately evaluate it. Comments also included concerns that the EIR does not adequately define a "more natural flow regime" or analyze the potential impacts of the flow regime on Northern California's economic and environmental resources. Comments also included concerns about the draft Delta Plan lacking quantified targets associated with achieving the coequal goals and a program to maintain and improve Delta levees. Comments included suggestions that seawater desalination be used to diversify the state's water supplies and that the Delta Plan specify ranges of water exports and through-Delta flows that will meet the coequal goals in order to guide BDCP.

Thursday, January 19
Willows Civic Center, City Council Chambers
201 North Lassen Street, Willows, CA 95988

Attended by Council member Phil Isenberg, and staff members Joe Grindstaff and Keith Coolidge.

Twenty-one audience members signed in, and five provided questions and/or comments. Audience members included representatives from Congressman Wally Herger's office, the City of Shasta Lake, Shasta County Water Agency, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Glenn County Board of Supervisors, AquAlliance, Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation, Northern California Water Association, California Waterfowl Association, California Water Research Associates, as well as local residents.

Audience comments included concerns about private citizens selling federally subsidized agricultural water to Southern California for a large profit and potential negative impacts from the draft Delta Plan's call for a more natural flow regime, which would "undermine Northern California's ability to be regionally self sufficient by redirecting water away from the region." Other comments included concerns about the Delta Plan's promotion of groundwater storage and conjunctive use. Comments suggested the EIR further analyze risks and uncertainties associated with conjunctive use, as well as potential impacts of the Delta Plan outside the legal Delta.

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